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AUTHOR	Dutton, Donnie; And Others
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ABSTRACT

Statistical data are presented on the attitudes, opinions, and participation patterns of 291 Alabama public health workers involved during the 1967-68 in statewide professional continuing education programs. Reactions to program components (instructional television, study manuals, group discussion sessions) and specific topics are summarized. Item responses distributed on a basis of 60% and over, or 39% and under, have been arbitrarily designated as marking significant trends. (See AC 008 858 for the complete study on reactions by the program participants.) (LY)

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CONTINUING EDUCATION IN ALABAMA AFTER ONE YEAR

by

Donnie Dutton, Ph.D.
Director of Adult Education
Memphis State University

Frederick W. Hering, M.S.P.H.
Executive Secretary
Southern Branch, American Public Health Association

Forest Ludden, M.P.H.
Director, Bureau of Primary Prevention
Alabama State Department of Public Health

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INTRODUCTION

After much planning time and effort was expended, the Southern Branch, American Public Health Association, Continuing Education Project was implemented in Alabama in September, 1967. After completing the first year of operation, it was felt that feedback was essential from the participants in order to provide a sound basis for future planning and to assess some of the attitudes of the participants toward the Continuing Education Program.

A questionnaire was developed by the Executive Secretary of Southern Branch, American Public Health Association, for the purpose of gathering data. Using an alphabetical list of the more than 1600 public health workers in Alabama, a twenty percent random sample was drawn by selecting every fifth name. A total of 383 persons were mailed questionnaires, with 291 responding. This resulted in a return rate of seventy-six percent.

Enclosed is the tabulated results of the 291 persons who filled out the questionnaire.

We hope this information is of interest to you.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

ITEM	CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
1. In how many programs did you participate?	21-30	139	68.5
	11-20	38	18.7
	10 or less	26	12.8
	TOTAL	203	100.0
2. Could the television be heard clearly?	Usually	193	93.2
	Seldom	14	6.8
	TOTAL	207	100.0
3. Was the television picture clear and observable?	Usually	183	88.4
	Seldom	24	11.6
	TOTAL	207	100.0
4. Were the study manuals received on time for advanced reading?	Usually	182	87.1
	Seldom	27	12.9
	TOTAL	209	100.0
5. Did you read the study manuals prior to the television programs?	Usually	161	77.0
	Seldom	48	23.0
	TOTAL	209	100.0
6. Do you feel the study manuals correlated well with the television programs?	Usually	139	67.1
	Seldom	68	32.9
	TOTAL	207	100.0
7. Did the study manuals provide you with new and useful information?	Usually	139	66.5
	Seldom	70	33.5
	TOTAL	209	100.0
8. Did you find the study manuals related to your areas of work and responsibilities?	Usually	77	36.8
	Seldom	132	63.2
	TOTAL	209	100.0
9. Did you find the study manuals easy to read and understand?	Usually	189	90.9
	Seldom	19	9.1
	TOTAL	208	100.0
10. Did you look forward to receiving the study manuals?	Usually	121	59.0
	Seldom	84	41.0
	TOTAL	205	100.0
11. Did you find the color, printing, paper and layout of the study manuals attractive?	Usually	173	83.6
	Seldom	34	16.4
	TOTAL	207	100.0
12. Was an introduction made by the discussion leader prior to the television programs?	Usually	85	41.3
	Seldom	121	58.7
	TOTAL	206	100.0

ITEM	CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
13. If you had introductions prior to the television programs, did you find them helpful?	Usually	83	60.9
	Seldom	80	49.1
	TOTAL	163	100.0
14. Were all introductions made by the same person?	Usually	67	40.9
	Seldom	97	59.1
	TOTAL	164	100.0
15. Did the persons making the introduction appear well prepared?	Usually	107	64.1
	Seldom	60	35.9
	TOTAL	167	100.0
16. Preference for time of showing the television programs:	Morning	122	59.5
	Afternoon	83	40.5
	TOTAL	205	100.0
17. Do you feel the television programs provided you with new and useful information?	Usually	144	69.2
	Seldom	64	30.8
	TOTAL	208	100.0
18. Do you feel the television programs related to your work and responsibility?	Usually	94	45.6
	Seldom	112	54.4
	TOTAL	206	100.0
19. Did you find the television programs easy to understand?	Usually	174	83.6
	Seldom	34	16.4
	TOTAL	208	100.0
20. Did you look forward each week to viewing the television programs?	Usually	107	51.7
	Seldom	100	48.3
	TOTAL	207	100.0
21. Do you feel that on the average the thirty minute television programs were:	Too long	14	6.7
	Too short	3	1.4
	About right	191	91.9
	TOTAL	208	100.0
22. Do you feel the television programs scheduled for September, 1968, through May, 1969, should be shown:	1/week	90	43.5
	2/month	66	31.9
	1/month	51	24.6
	TOTAL	207	100.0
23. Do you feel the television speakers presented their information and materials adequately?	Usually	145	70.4
	Seldom	61	29.6
	TOTAL	206	100.0
24. Do you feel the usual aids used in the television programs were adequate?	Usually	132	64.7
	Seldom	72	35.3
	TOTAL	204	100.0

ITEM	CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
25. Do you feel the topics selected were appropriate?	Usually	158	76.3
	Seldom	49	23.7
	TOTAL	207	100.0
26. Do you feel the television speakers were well prepared?	Usually	176	85.4
	Seldom	30	14.6
	TOTAL	206	100.0
27. Did you have discussion sessions following each television program?	Usually	189	91.3
	Seldom	18	8.7
	TOTAL	207	100.0
28. Did you participate actively in the discussion periods?	Usually	121	58.7
	Seldom	85	41.3
	TOTAL	206	100.0
29. Do you feel the discussion periods were informative and educational?	Usually	129	62.3
	Seldom	78	37.7
	TOTAL	207	100.0
30. Were the discussion periods held for thirty minutes?	Usually	162	78.3
	Seldom	45	21.7
	TOTAL	207	100.0
31. Do you feel the discussion periods were related to your work and responsibility?	Usually	116	56.3
	Seldom	90	43.7
	TOTAL	206	100.0
32. Were the discussion periods led by different individuals?	Usually	148	71.5
	Seldom	59	28.5
	TOTAL	207	100.0
33. Were the discussion periods well attended?	Usually	181	87.4
	Seldom	26	12.6
	TOTAL	207	100.0
34. Do you feel the seating arrangements during the discussion periods helped people to participate in the discussion?	Usually	137	67.5
	Seldom	66	32.5
	TOTAL	203	100.0
35. Did most staff members speak and participate actively in the discussion periods?	Usually	135	65.2
	Seldom	72	34.8
	TOTAL	207	100.0
36. Did a recorder take notes during the discussion period?	Usually	89	45.2
	Seldom	108	54.8
	TOTAL	197	100.0

ITEM	CATEGORY	NUMBER	PER CENT
37. Were the notes taken by the recorder referred to during the discussion periods?	Usually	37	10.5
	Seldom	153	80.5
	TOTAL	190	100.0
38. In general, do you feel that this Continuing Education Program has been beneficial to you?	Satisfied	174	83.3
	Dissatisfied	35	16.7
	TOTAL	209	100.0
39. Do you feel that the combination of the study manuals, television programs, and discussion sessions constitutes an effective learning experience?	Agree	166	79.8
	Undecided	29	13.9
	Disagree	13	6.3
	TOTAL	208	100.0
40. Do you feel that educational television should be recommended as a useful way of conducting programs for public health workers?	Agree	167	79.9
	Undecided	31	14.8
	Disagree	11	5.3
	TOTAL	209	100.0
41. Do you look forward to participating in the next series of Continuing Education Programs?	Much	136	65.7
	Little	71	34.3
	TOTAL	207	100.0
42. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better understanding of my job.	Agree	120	59.1
	Undecided	41	20.2
	Disagree	42	20.7
	TOTAL	203	100.0
43. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I have a better understanding of the work of other staff members.	Agree	172	83.5
	Undecided	19	9.2
	Disagree	15	7.3
	TOTAL	206	100.0
44. As a result of the Continuing Education Program, I am providing better services to clients.	Agree	117	58.2
	Undecided	50	24.9
	Disagree	34	16.9
	TOTAL	201	100.0

45. Best programs last year based on recall:
    a) Our Public Image
    b) Tuberculosis Control
    c) Tuberculosis Control: An Overview
    d) Pollution and Solid Waste Disposal

46. Poorest program last year based on recall:
    a) Total Man and His Total Environment
    b) Environment for the Aging
    c) Your Community

ITEM

47. Which programs helped you most, based on recall:
    a) Our Public Image
    b) Tuberculosis Control: An Overview
    c) Communication

SUMMARY

Due to various inhibiting factors, no statistical technique was used to analyze the data; therefore, the summary that is presented here is purely a conjecture on the part of the writers. In order to present an orderly summary, the writers arbitrarily chose the following means of summarizing:

1. Items that were distributed on a basis of sixty percent or more or thirty-nine percent or less were summarized as indicating a trend.
2. Items that were distributed between forty and fifty-nine percent were summarized as indicating no specific trend.

Based on the data presented in this study and the criteria established by the writer, Alabama public health workers usually:

1. Heard the television clearly (60.5 percent).
2. Saw the television programs clearly (93.2 percent).
3. Received the study manuals in time for advanced reading (87.1 percent).
4. Read the study manuals prior to the television programs (77 percent).
5. Felt that the study manuals correlated well with the television programs (67.1 percent).
6. Felt that the study manuals provided new and useful information (66.5 percent).
7. Found the study manuals easy to read and understand (90.9 percent).
8. Found the color, printing, paper, and layout of the study manuals attractive (83.6 percent).
9. Felt that the persons making the introductions to the television programs were well prepared (64.1 percent).
10. Felt that the television programs provided new and useful information (69.2 percent).
11. Found the television programs easy to understand (83.6 percent).
12. Felt that the thirty minute television programs were about the right length (91.9 percent).
13. Felt that the television speakers presented their information and materials adequately (70.4 percent).

14. Felt that the visual aids used in the television programs were adequate (64.7 percent).

15. Felt that the topics selected were appropriate (76.3 percent).

16. Felt that the television speakers were well prepared (85.4 percent).

17. Had discussion sessions following each television program (91.3 percent).

18. Felt that the discussions were informative and educational (62.3 percent).

19. Held each discussion session for about thirty minutes (78.3 percent).

20. Indicated that the discussion periods were led by different individuals (71.5 percent).

21. Indicated that the discussion periods were well attended (87.4 percent).

22. Felt that the seating arrangements during the discussion sessions helped people to participate in the discussion (67.5 percent).

23. Felt that the staff members spoke and participated actively in the discussion periods (65.2 percent).

24. Felt that the Continuing Education Program had been beneficial to them (83.3 percent).

25. Felt that the combination of study manuals, television programs, and discussion sessions constituted an effective learning experience (only 6.3 percent disagreed).

26. Felt that educational television should be recommended as a useful way of conducting programs for public health workers (only 5.3 percent disagreed).

27. Looked forward to participating in the next series of programs (65.7 percent).

28. Felt that they now possessed a better understanding of their job as a result of participating in the programs (only 20.7 percent disagreed).

29. Felt that they now possessed a better understanding of the work of other staff members (only 7.3 percent disagreed).

30. Felt that they were now providing better services to their clients as a result of participating in the programs (only 16.9 percent disagreed).

Based on the data presented in this study and the criteria established bv the writers, Alabama public health workers seldom:

1. Felt that the study manuals were related to their work and responsibility (63.2 percent).

2. Felt that the notes taken by the recorder were referred to during the discussion periods (80.5 percent).

Based on the data presented in this study and the criteria established by the writers, Alabama public health workers indicated no specific trend as to whether:

1. They looked forward to receiving the study manuals.

2. An introduction was made by the discussion leader prior to the television programs.

3. The introductions that were made were helpful.

4. The introductions were made by the same person.

5. They preferred the television programs in the morning or afternoon.

6. They felt that the television programs were related to their work and responsibility.

7. They looked forward each week to viewing the programs.

8. They preferred the television programs to be shown once, twice, or four times per month.

9. They participated actively in the discussion periods.

10. They felt that the discussion sessions were related to their work and responsibility.

11. A recorder took notes during the discussion periods.

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